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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant)
Tadahiro Ohmi et al.) Art Group: 7595
Serial No.: 09/581,878)
Filing Date: June 19, 2000)
Title: SEMICONDUCTOR) Examiner: Luz L. Alejandro
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS) Mulero
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RESPONSE

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Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2003,
having a due date of July 22, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the
following Amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and rejected in this application.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended hereby. Applicants submit that
none of the changes set forth herewith constitute new matter or
raise new issues.

5 Support in the specification for the amendments to claims 1
and 2 can be found, e.g., in Fig. 2 (i.e., vacuum vessel bottom
plate 102 and wafer stage 105) and at page 10, line 26, through
page 11, line 2. Applicant further submits that no new issues
are raised as the terminology "fixedly provided" is within the
10 scope and meaning of "substantially constant vertical position"